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Dean R McHatton
862 Bilglade Drive
Biloxi, MS 39532-3202
4 October 2000

Honorable Donna E. Shalala
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 615F
Washington, DC

Dear Secretary Shalala:

I have recently become aware that the FDA is rushing to put forth a new proposal that would change the way seniors like me access hearing health care and hearing aids.

My hearing problems greatly handicap me as I work with Senior Citizen groups and as past president of the Mississippi National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). I also find many of my associates have the same problem. If we are unable to continue our present method of care (which I am extremely happy with) our cost in travel and extra doctor bills will hurt us all.

Please stop the FDA from interfering with us. We have no coverage for hearing devices under Medicare as you know. All of this shuffling around that will be necessary under the proposed changes will do nothing but lower the care we presently receive and increase our cost.

Please let me know what you have done to help us in correcting this injustice.

Sincerely



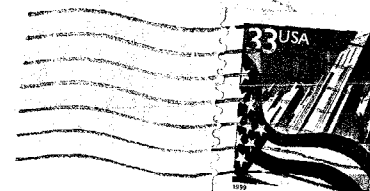
Dean R McHatton

cc: Senator Trent Lott

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Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

